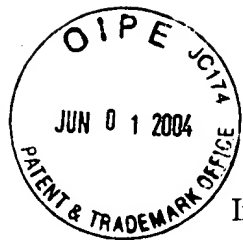


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Response & Amendment  
09/737,765  
2880/323



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventors: M. TALJA *et al.*  
Serial No: 09/737,765  
Filed: December 18, 2000  
For: BIODEGRADABLE SURGICAL IMPLANTS AND DEVICES  
Group Art Unit: 3738  
Examiner: D. Isabella  
Docket No.: 2880/323  
Customer No.: 23838

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of March 1, 2004, for which a response is due on or before June 1, 2004 (without any extensions of time), Applicants hereby submit the following remarks and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.